

# Loanhead Parish Church

## Newsletter

### October 2020

Dear friends

The last few months have proved stressful for all of us. For some, because we haven't been able to get out and do all we would like, whilst for others it's because more has been asked of us, with even simple things becoming more difficult. Whichever group you are in (and it may be both), please be assured of our continued prayers and concern.



As I underlined on Sunday, it is important that we support and encourage one another in and through these times, making sure that we travel this journey with one another. We will continue to look for ways to do this through the church, but it is crucial that all of us play our part in this.

Encouraging one another in faith is an important part of that and is the main reason we have worked so hard to produce material online, on the phone and in-person as we have returned on Sunday mornings. That has gone well and on Sunday past we had to turn people away as we had more than 50 people who wanted to attend. A strange thing to be doing – but please don't be put off booking by thinking that you are preventing others from attending.

Beginning this coming Sunday, we will be experimenting with live streaming our services in the church and when we are confident about that, this will replace some of our online content. You'll find details later in the newsletter.

We'll also be having our **first communion in six months on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**. If you are sharing with us at home that day, please have a small glass of wine or juice along with a piece of bread ready so that you can share in communion in your own home. It serves as a deep reminder of the way that Jesus gave his life for us and the call upon our lives to follow him. Even, or especially, in these times we need that reminder.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John D...' with a flourish at the end.



**Church services** restarted on 23rd August and even though we are restricted to 50 people, it has been great to welcome people back into the church for Sunday worship. You do need to book so that we can keep a note of who attends and make sure that we have a place for everyone who comes along.

Bookings are open from 12 noon on the Thursday and you can book by calling or texting using our dedicated number—07743107097. Please indicate your name and the number you would like to book from your household—adults and children. Once a month children, families and young people get priority for our Family Services

### **Special Services in the Autumn**

Sundays at 10.30 a.m.

*11<sup>th</sup> October - Harvest Service*

*25<sup>th</sup> October - Communion*

*1<sup>st</sup> November - Family Service*

*8<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday (with 2 minute silence at 11 a.m.)*

*28<sup>th</sup> November - Family Service – first Sunday of Advent*



### **Remembrance Sunday arrangements**

We have been working with other community groups to plan for Remembrance Sunday. Wreaths will still be laid at the war memorial and a 2 minute silence kept at 11 a.m., but a limited number will be in attendance. Organisations who usually lay wreaths will be contacted either to attend at 11 a.m. or to have a time slot later in the day to lay their wreath.

#### **Here's how you can take part:**

If you are not at church that Sunday, you are invited to stand on your doorstep at 11 a.m. for the 2 minute silence. People across the UK are to be invited to share in this.



We will be creating a **special memorial garden** in the church grounds and you are invited to place a cross or flowers there any time before 11th November.

Painted stones can also be placed at the memorial in the park.



**Streaming Services online:** From this Sunday (11th) we hope to begin streaming our services in the church live at 10.30 a.m. through Youtube It will also be available to watch later. This will replace the video that is posted on the website and facebook and details about how to access it will be available there. We will keep both going for a few weeks until we are confident about our live streaming ability. This is a steep learning curve for all of us!

**Watch on your TV or Tablet** If you have a SMART TV or Tablet and an Internet connection you will be able to watch the services on your TV. Open Youtube and search for “Loanhead Parish Church.” If you subscribe to our channel you will then have an easy connection for future weeks. If you would like help setting this up on your TV or Tablet please let us know.



**Phone 0131 297 6197:** The Sunday service will still be available on our phone line but from 1 p.m. on Sundays.

**Sunday Gathering** is at 11.30 a.m. on Sundays. Hosted on Zoom this provides a more informal setting to share. After half an hour we break into smaller groups to allow folk to chat and share — like having tea and coffee after our morning service!



**“Thought for the Day”** is a short 4 minute reflection from the minister, linked in with a bible passage. It provides something midweek as a focus and encouragement. It is available on the website on a Tuesday and a Thursday—and is also available on the phone line. **0131 297 6197.**

On page 6 you’ll find further details of other midweek activities and on page 7 details of what we are providing for children, young people and families. These are being developed further as we are able and will be adapted as restrictions change.

## Church Finances

We are continuing to keep an eye on our finances and appreciate the continued support of members and others. Much of our regular giving is by standing order and if you are able to give in this way, please consider setting up a monthly standing order. You can also give through a one-off donation directly. The bank details are:



Bank of Scotland, 801742, Loanhead Parish Church 00451198

### Freewill Offering Envelopes:



If you use these regularly we hope that you will continue to do so. Offerings can be placed in the plate on the way into the church on Sundays or if you would like us to pick up instead, please phone Margaret Hurst to arrange for this. 0131 440 1005.

## Supporting Charities

Each year Tea and Chat—and before them Chatterbox— raised money for **MacMillan Cancer support**.

Fundraising for

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

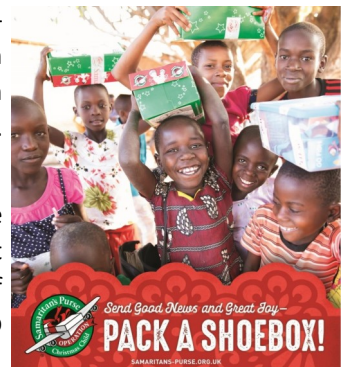


Despite the restrictions we wanted to continue with that and on Friday 25th September and 2nd October afternoon teas were delivered to those who asked for them for a minimum donation of £5 a head.

Thanks to all who put together the afternoon teas and delivered them – as well as those who supported this. **Over £1,200 has been raised** for MacMillan Cancer support, which is a great total.

**Shoebbox Appeal:** We have also regularly supported the Shoebbox Appeal organised by Samaritans Purse, with Irene Allan heading this up for us. This year the National Collection Week will be 9-16 November which is only four weeks away. So get filling your boxes!

Details about this are available on their website [www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk). You can also pick up a leaflet from the church or give Mary Millan a call and we will drop off a leaflet to you. 07443 509037. If you are unable to drop these off we will arrange to pick them up from you.



## Harvest Thanksgiving

As part of our Harvest celebrations, this year we are partnering with Paradykes Primary school to support local families who would appreciate this support, along with those who stay at Kilbreck. We are also collecting for the local foodbank who regularly provide support for families and others. If you would like to drop off gifts for this then the church will be for you to drop off gifts in the vestibule from



10 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Or simply drop them off at the manse

We know that the Foodbank already have enough pasta to do them until the end of the year but would appreciate other non perishable items. Here's a list of what the foodbank would appreciate, some of it as they already begin to plan towards Christmas!

### Items for Foodbank

Diluting juice; Christmas Cake; Tinned ham, Tinned fish; Selection Box; Crisps/snacks/  
Tinned veg; Box of biscuits; Coffee; Instant noodles

## Flowers at Harvest

The church will as usual be decorated with flowers for our Harvest thanksgiving service. However a small team have also been working hard behind the scenes making up small arrangements that will be taken out to members and other, delivered by our families. We pray they will be a reminder of God's provision for us .



## Bake cookies



We want to find a way to say to our families that we love having them as part of our church family and are planning to take to families a jar with all the ingredients needed to bake cookies together along with a spoon to help mix them!

Family life is hugely stressful in these times and we want families as well as other to know that they are in our thoughts and prayers—and we hope it will give them something to do as a family over the October break. If you get a jar, please post a photo of your cookies on Facebook when you get round to making them!



### Midweek reflections & Discussion

Our fortnightly meetings give an opportunity to share with others in reflections and discussions, with input from a video and then discussion in groups.

### Christian Mindfulness and Meditation

Material that you can use is available and updated each week on the website.

### Men's Group

The Men's Group meet fortnightly on a Tuesday evening to support and encourage one another in our Christian faith. Contact the minister if you would like to join this group.

### Friday Café

On Friday at 2.30 p.m. Margaret Hurst hosts our virtual café—an opportunity to drop in for an informal chat.

*Details of how to join these events, all hosted on Zoom, are on the website and our facebook page. [www.loanheadparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.loanheadparishchurch.co.uk)*



[/loanheadparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/loanheadparishchurch)

**MOPS Group:** Although the group can't meet in the way it did, we are looking at ways to connect mums again to give space to talk about life and the importance of keeping a balance. Details about this will be available shortly.



Large groups and meeting in one another's homes is not possible during these times but we want to help people connect with one another and support one another in our walk with Jesus. If you would like to be part of a small group meeting using Zoom or just have someone meet with you for a coffee to take time to share about faith and life please just let us know.

Contact the minister, Catriona, Audrey or Mary for more details or to discuss what would suit you best.



We currently have a Youth group for older teenagers on a Thursday evening in the church hall, with appropriate social distancing. Our second group using Minecraft continues to meet with those in S1-3 on a Sunday evening, with Kyle Anderson leading the way.

A further group is to be added for youngsters in Primary school, meeting midweek after school online. Kykle will again lead this with support from Kieva (see below.) Contact Alan Duffin for you know young people who might be interested.

### **Youth Work Student Placement**



Hi, I'm Kieva! I'm 21 and this year I have started training as a Youth Minister. I live in Gorebridge with my mum, Lee, dad, Kevin, and brother, Cole.

This year I started my studies through Reign Ministries, a university in Bicester, England and is a three-year-long course. While I'm studying I will be working alongside the young people in our church community, and the local community in Loanhead, getting to know them and building their faith up.

My faith journey started in 2014, in which my dad and brother started going to church. I went along one Sunday after they had kept nagging that I should give it a go. I started attending church and joining the youth group in day camps and weeks/weekends away.

In 2018 there was a dip, and later that year I felt like I was missing something. I could feel that God was calling me back to church and I was too nervous to go back at first. But, I took the plunge and after that my relationships with the church members and God grew, along with volunteering with them.

After many chats with friends and our Youth Minister, Ross Watters, I decided to start the degree in Theology, a decision that even I never saw coming. If you had asked me a year ago if I'd ever considered studying Theology, I would've laughed. But God seems to have other plans!

I'm most looking forward to building up our young people and helping them grow and share their faith within themselves and their peers. I'm also looking forward to meeting other members of the church and gaining more relationships with you all!

God bless, Kieva

## Families

It was great to have six families with us last Sunday at church and every four weeks we are planning to hold a *Family Service* so that families know that the content will be shaped around them. On those Sundays families will have priority booking.

### Children's work on Sundays

On other weeks, activities for children will still be available through in the hall as part of the service and youngsters will be with us for the first part of the service.

### Outdoor church



We were planning to have our very first Outdoor Church for families this Sunday with two of the parents in our congregation, Libby and Barry (Leigh and Brodie's mum and dad) running a rock climbing session for the kids. (Together they run Scotia Adventure [www.scotiaadventure.com](http://www.scotiaadventure.com))

The change in restrictions recently announced preclude us from running this just now but once the restrictions on outdoor events are lifted we will re-arrange this and let families know the details.

### Growing Young

Along with 22 other churches from across Scotland, we are working through material with Fuller Youth Institute, helping to shape not only our youth work but our whole church culture in a way that is meaningful not just for younger generations but for us all. Shortly you will be invited to complete an online survey that will help create a profile for our church and highlight areas for us to work on.



### Keeping in touch



We want to keep in touch with people as much as possible. As well as providing updates by email will continue to provide a regular newsletter like this. The next one should have details of our plans for Christmas services, which we will vary to make sure there is something for people of all ages to share in.

And feel free to give us a call to let us know how you are doing or just for a blether!

Graham Duffin 448 2459  
Mary Millan 07443 509037  
Margaret Hurst 440 1005